

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-11 FCC-03

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PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2842

INFO USNAVCOMSTA HAROLD E. HOLT

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

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CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCPACREP AUSTRALIA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1743

CINCPAC FOR POLAD.

1. TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS STATEMENT OF MAR 21, 1974, CONCERNING THE SIGNATURE OF THE AMENDMENTS TO NORTH WEST CAPE STATION AGREEMENT OF 1963 GIVEN BELOW. PRESS COMMENTS ON SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN PRIMIN AND AMBASSADOR GREEN HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PRESS RELEASE AND PUBLICATION OF PHOTO TAKEN DURING CEREMONY.

QTE: THE PRIME MINISTER, MR WHITLAM, AS ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR, MR. MARSHALL GREEN, TODAY SIGNED AND EXCHANGED NOTES RELATING TO AMENDMENTS TO THE 1963 AGREEMENT ON THE NORTH WEST CAPE NAVAL COMMUNICATION STATION. THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES REPRESENTS THE FIRST STEP BY THE AUSTRALIAN AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS IN GIVING EFFECT TO THE ARRANGEMENTS REACHED AS A RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, MR. BARNARD, WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON IN JANUARY.

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QTE: THREE AMENDMENTS ARE CONTAINED IN THE NOTES.
THE FIRST PROVIDES FOR THE STATION TO BE OPERATED AS A
JOINT FACILITY BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE TWO GOVERN-
MENTS. THE SECOND WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF REDUCING EXCLUS-
IVE LAND RIGHTS AT NORTH WEST CAPE; THE UNITED STATES WOULD
RETAIN EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO A COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING ONLY.
THE THIRD LIMITS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE JOINT FACILITY.

QTE: THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED,
FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION BY THE CABINET, TO INTRODUCE THE
NECESSARY AMENDING LEGISLATION TO THE UNITED STATES
NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION AGREEMENT ACT (1963).
IT WAS INTENDED THAT THIS BE DONE, IF PRACTICABLE,
DURING THE CURRENT SITTINGS OF PARLIAMENT. THE
AMENDED AGREEMENT WOULD COME INTO FORCE AFTER LEGISLATION
HAD BEEN ENACTED AND INSTRUMENTS NOTIFYING THE APPROVAL
OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS EXCHANGED. END QTE.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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